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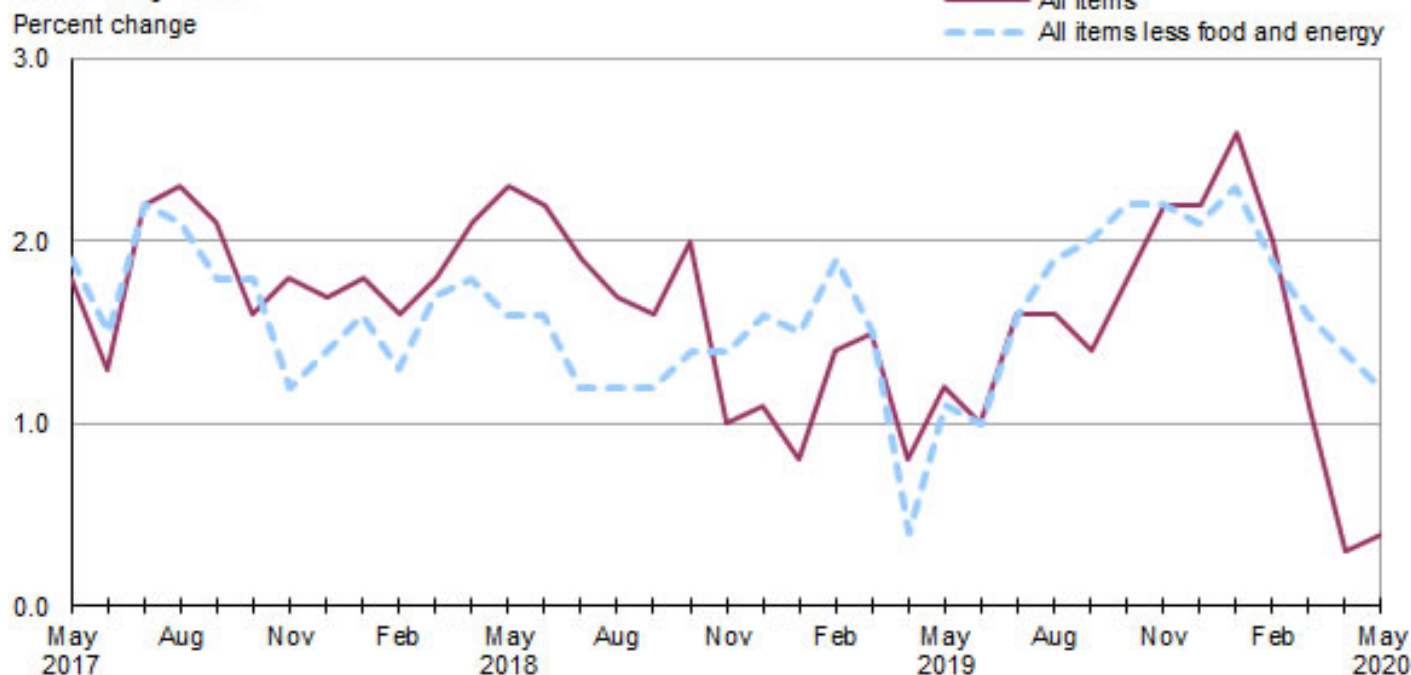
Consumer Price Index, Chicago-Naperville-Elgin — May 2020

Area prices were up 1.0 percent over the past month, up 0.4 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Chicago-Naperville-Elgin area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 1.0 percent in May, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Acting Regional Commissioner Julie Wilson noted that the indexes for food, energy, and all items less food and energy were all higher in May. Within the all items less food and energy category, prices rose over the month for shelter, household furnishings and operations, and apparel. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U rose 0.4 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The index for all items less food and energy advanced 1.2 percent over the year. Food prices rose 4.3 percent. Energy prices fell 16.6 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI, May 2017–May 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices increased 0.8 percent for the month of May. Prices for food at home (groceries) rose 1.4 percent, and prices for food away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) were unchanged for the same period.

Over the year, food prices rose 4.3 percent. Prices for food at home increased 6.7 percent since a year ago, and prices for food away from home increased 1.2 percent.

Energy

The energy index increased 6.9 percent over the month. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (11.9 percent). Prices for electricity rose 4.4 percent, and prices for utility (piped) gas service increased 1.6 percent for the same period.

Energy prices fell 16.6 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-31.8 percent). Prices paid for electricity advanced 5.3 percent, while prices for utility (piped) gas service declined 2.1 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.6 percent in May. Higher prices for shelter (0.8 percent), household furnishings and operations (1.9 percent), and apparel (1.5 percent) contributed to the gain.

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 1.2 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (1.9 percent) and medical care (6.6 percent). Partly offsetting the increases was a decrease in the apparel index (-8.7 percent).

Table A. Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI, CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	0.8	0.9	0.7	1.8	0.8	1.8	0.6	0.8	0.9	2.6
February.....	-0.2	0.7	0.1	2.2	0.0	1.6	0.6	1.4	0.0	2.0
March.....	0.1	0.2	-0.1	2.0	0.0	1.8	0.1	1.5	-0.7	1.1
April.....	0.6	0.7	0.4	1.7	0.7	2.1	-0.1	0.8	-0.9	0.3
May.....	0.0	0.3	0.2	1.8	0.4	2.3	0.8	1.2	1.0	0.4
June.....	0.5	0.7	0.0	1.3	-0.2	2.2	-0.4	1.0		
July.....	-0.8	-0.1	0.0	2.2	-0.3	1.9	0.3	1.6		
August.....	0.2	-0.2	0.3	2.3	0.1	1.7	0.2	1.6		
September.....	0.6	0.6	0.4	2.1	0.4	1.6	0.2	1.4		
October.....	0.1	0.8	-0.4	1.6	0.0	2.0	0.3	1.8		
November.....	0.2	1.5	0.4	1.8	-0.6	1.0	-0.2	2.2		
December.....	-0.2	1.9	-0.4	1.7	-0.3	1.1	-0.2	2.2		

The June 2020 Consumer Price Index for Chicago is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, July 14, 2020.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on May 2020 Consumer Price Index Data

Data collection by personal visit for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program has been suspended since March 16, 2020. When possible, data normally collected by personal visit were collected either online or by phone. Additionally, data collection in May was affected by the temporary closing or limited operations of certain types of establishments. These factors resulted in an increase in the number of prices considered temporarily unavailable and imputed.

While the CPI program attempted to collect as much data as possible, many indexes are based on smaller amounts of collected prices than usual, and a small number of indexes that are normally published were not published this month. Additional information is available at www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-consumer-price-index.htm.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 93 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 29 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 75 urban areas across the country from about 5,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch17.pdf.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **Note: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The **Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI, Core Based Statistical Area** covered in this release is comprised of Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties in Illinois; Jasper, Lake, Newton, and Porter Counties in Indiana; and Kenosha County in Wisconsin.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Mar. 2020	Apr. 2020	May 2020	May 2019	Mar. 2020	Apr. 2020
Expenditure category						
All items	242.655	240.364	242.650	0.4	0.0	1.0
All items (1967=100)	724.952	718.107	724.936	-	-	-
Food and beverages	256.559	260.717	262.358	3.8	2.3	0.6
Food	256.325	260.803	262.924	4.3	2.6	0.8
Food at home	240.375	247.949	251.541	6.7	4.6	1.4
Cereals and bakery products	268.312	277.638	276.744	3.6	3.1	-0.3
Meats, poultry, fish and eggs	254.515	265.907	278.308	10.1	9.3	4.7
Dairy and related products	218.368	231.696	230.478	9.0	5.5	-0.5
Fruits and vegetables	309.545	305.524	312.519	1.1	1.0	2.3
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1)	204.919	213.466	211.929	10.8	3.4	-0.7
Other food at home	193.464	200.135	201.535	7.1	4.2	0.7
Food away from home	272.968	272.968	272.961	1.2	0.0	0.0
Alcoholic beverages	258.169	258.170	253.608	-1.5	-1.8	-1.8
Housing	256.879	255.767	258.551	2.0	0.7	1.1
Shelter	327.720	325.920	328.585	1.9	0.3	0.8
Rent of primary residence(2)	347.474	347.314	348.344	2.1	0.3	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)(3)	336.407	336.343	338.070	2.8	0.5	0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(2)(3)	336.407	336.343	338.070	2.8	0.5	0.5
Fuels and utilities	206.240	205.564	210.766	2.5	2.2	2.5
Household energy	158.176	157.702	163.017	2.4	3.1	3.4
Energy services(2)	161.367	160.932	166.371	2.5	3.1	3.4
Electricity(2)	163.667	165.031	172.302	5.3	5.3	4.4
Utility (piped) gas service(2)	144.716	141.635	143.897	-2.1	-0.6	1.6
Household furnishings and operations	88.746	89.099	90.748	1.7	2.3	1.9
Apparel	84.616	76.468	77.607	-8.7	-8.3	1.5
Transportation	178.064	168.524	173.100	-10.9	-2.8	2.7
Private transportation	178.432	168.900	172.964	-8.9	-3.1	2.4
New and used motor vehicles(4)	96.071	97.270	97.501	1.7	1.5	0.2
New vehicles(1)	172.315	174.194	175.528	1.7	1.9	0.8
Used cars and trucks(1)	270.063	267.837	265.771	-0.6	-1.6	-0.8
Motor fuel	208.787	171.027	190.983	-31.7	-8.5	11.7
Gasoline (all types)	206.470	168.745	188.856	-31.8	-8.5	11.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular(5)	198.107	160.926	180.957	-32.3	-8.7	12.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(5)(6)	230.945	195.459	214.645	-29.2	-7.1	9.8
Gasoline, unleaded premium(5)	235.425	203.198	216.928	-26.9	-7.9	6.8
Motor vehicle insurance(1)	545.270	470.457	470.457	-11.3	-13.7	0.0
Medical care	532.510	531.220	532.128	6.6	-0.1	0.2
Recreation(4)	113.031	113.562	114.174	1.9	1.0	0.5
Education and communication(4)	142.825	142.657	142.051	1.4	-0.5	-0.4
Tuition, other school fees, and childcare(1) ..	1,209.724	1,209.724	1,208.054	3.0	-0.1	-0.1
Other goods and services	410.371	409.229	408.491	1.7	-0.5	-0.2
Commodity and service group						
All items	242.655	240.364	242.650	0.4	0.0	1.0
Commodities	166.751	164.139	166.572	-2.4	-0.1	1.5
Commodities less food and beverages	123.119	118.230	120.787	-6.6	-1.9	2.2
Nondurables less food and beverages	164.048	152.032	157.391	-12.6	-4.1	3.5
Durables	85.047	85.056	85.622	1.6	0.7	0.7
Services	315.028	313.201	315.215	1.9	0.1	0.6

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Mar. 2020	Apr. 2020	May 2020	May 2019	Mar. 2020	Apr. 2020
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	230.181	227.831	230.193	-0.2	0.0	1.0
All items less shelter	213.868	211.421	213.575	-0.4	-0.1	1.0
Commodities less food	127.748	122.937	125.337	-6.4	-1.9	2.0
Nondurables	210.141	205.680	209.334	-3.7	-0.4	1.8
Nondurables less food	170.102	158.781	163.555	-11.8	-3.8	3.0
Services less rent of shelter(3)	317.415	315.484	316.885	1.8	-0.2	0.4
Services less medical care services	298.302	296.270	298.431	1.0	0.0	0.7
Energy	177.447	162.074	173.208	-16.6	-2.4	6.9
All items less energy	250.757	249.577	251.119	1.7	0.1	0.6
All items less food and energy	250.616	248.408	249.850	1.2	-0.3	0.6

Footnotes

(1) Index on a December 1977=100 base.

(2) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(3) Index on a December 1982=100 base.

(4) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(5) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(6) Index on a December 1993=100 base.

- Data not available.

Note: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.